

County of San Diego
Revised: September 24, 1992
Reviewed: Spring 2003

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
SENIOR CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

Class No. 005045
Class No. 005087

DEFINITION:

Under general direction, to perform a wide variety of professional work such as psychological assessment, evaluation, crisis intervention and psychotherapy for individuals in a variety of settings including clinics, hospitals, probation and detention facilities; and to perform related work.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Positions in these classes are licensed clinical psychologists providing individual and group therapy to individuals in a variety of settings including clinics, hospitals, probation and detention facilities.

Clinical Psychologist:

This is the first level in the class series. Incumbents provide psychological services and clinical supervision to subordinate mental health professionals.

Senior Clinical Psychologist:

This is the highest class in the series. Incumbents perform administrative and clinical supervision duties and may act as team leaders responsible for a specialized unit or psychological function.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Performs psychological diagnoses and assessments using a variety of procedures and tools, sets up therapy goals and interacts with other mental health professionals to establish comprehensive treatment plans; conducts psychotherapy with individuals and groups on both short and long-term basis; performs crisis intervention and emergency referrals; prepares detailed reports for courts, other professionals, and program records; advises other psychologists or mental health professionals in areas of specialized expertise; provides case consultation to community organization professionals; meets with clients and/or family members to explain client status, treatment, goals and program resources; organizes community groups to address mental health related issues and shape public policy; assists in training and supervision of psychology interns; advises and helps educate other health professionals and workers in applying effective psychological techniques; and may act as an expert witness in court.

Senior Clinical Psychologist:

All of the duties listed above and: reviews program/service requests and develops programs of psychological services which may be multi-disciplinary in approach; reviews case work and provides technical guidance to subordinate psychologists; assists in departmental in-service training programs for mental health workers; coordinates, oversees and ensures the training of psychology interns; may participate in the supervision and day-to-day clinical operation of a division, functioning in an administrative capacity in the absence of the division chief.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge Level: T = Thorough; G = General; -- = Not Applicable

Classification Level: C = Clinical Psychologist
Sr = Senior Clinical Psychologist

Knowledge of:

<u>C</u>	<u>Sr</u>	
T	T	Abnormal, social and human development psychology.
T	T	Personality theory.
T	T	Theory and practice of individual and group psychotherapy.
T	T	Behavior modification.
T	T	Crisis intervention techniques.
T	T	Legal and ethical standards governing clinical psychology.
G	T	Patients' rights.
G	T	Community systems and practices.
G	T	Interdisciplinary relationships with allied professionals.
G	T	Psychotropic drugs and their manifestations.
G	G	Federal, State and local laws governing mental health services, including forensic mental health.
G	G	Psychometric and statistical theory and methods.
G	G	Research design.
--	G	Community relations and psychological consultation.
--	G	Principals of clinical and personnel supervision and management.
--	G	The General Management System (GMS) in principle and in practice.

Skills and Abilities to:

- Establish therapeutic relations with the most difficult clients.
- Conduct crisis intervention and make appropriate referrals.
- Practice professionally in a team setting.
- Diagnose and plan psychological treatment for adults and children.
- Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, complex psychological findings to persons with diverse backgrounds.
- Design and implement community oriented mental health intervention and support systems.
- Supervise, train and evaluate the work of psychology interns.
- Practice professionally in a multi-disciplinary, team setting.

Senior Clinical Psychologist (in addition to the above):

- Supervise, train and evaluate subordinate staff.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training or experience, which clearly demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are:

Clinical Psychologist:

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Ph.D. in psychology, clinical, community or educational psychology, AND two (2) years of full-time experience in a mental health setting, one year of which must have been post-doctoral experience.

Senior Clinical Psychologist:

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Ph.D. in psychology, clinical, community or educational psychology, AND four (4) years post doctoral experience in a mental health, forensic or correctional setting, two (2) years of which must have been in a mental health setting.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES OR REQUIREMENTS:**License:**

Candidates must be licensed by the State of California as a Psychologist (California Administrative Code, Title 9, Section 624). Persons outside California whose education and experience are sufficient to gain admission to the licensing examination shall have two (2) years from the date of employment in California to become licensed or employment shall be terminated. Such employees shall take the licensing examination at the earliest possible date after the date of his/her appointment. If the employee does not pass the examination at that time, he/she shall have a second opportunity to pass the examination, subject to the one-year limit.

A valid California Class C driver's license is required at time of appointment or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their own personal vehicle.

Working Conditions:

Positions may involve exposure to infectious diseases, violent and verbally abusive clients and/or incarcerated persons.

Probationary Period:

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in this class shall serve a probationary period of twelve (12) months. (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).

Background:

Applicants must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. Convictions, depending on type, number, and recency may be disqualifying. Prior to appointment, candidates offered positions in Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) programs that deal with patients and/or drugs will be subject to a limited security clearance investigation performed by the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA).